

Report to: Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health

Date of meeting: 2 November 2020

By: Director of Adult Social Care and Health

Title of report: Proposed consultation on the way care and support is delivered at Newington Court Extra Care scheme in Ticehurst

Purpose: To seek Lead Member agreement to commence a consultation on the way care and support is delivered at Newington Court Extra Care scheme in Ticehurst

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health is recommended to agree that East Sussex County Council undertakes a six week consultation on how care and support is delivered at Newington Court in Ticehurst

1. Background

1.1. There are 35 flats at Newington Court Extra Care scheme, which are occupied by 29 residents. Of these 17 are Adult Social Care funded clients and the remainder are either privately funded or have no care and support needs. The Landlord is Optivo and Care at Home Services (CAHS) are the care and support provider.

2. Supporting information

Current Position

2.1. Approximately 50% of the residents who have lived at the scheme since it converted from sheltered housing have either no planned care needs or require less than five hours of support per week. The County Council has to fund a guaranteed minimum level of care hours to ensure the sustainability of the provider to deliver support at the scheme. There are currently 54 unused care hours per week which equates to a cost of £52k per annum.

2.2. East Sussex County Council also funds night-time support cover at a cost of £64k per annum, in line with Extra Care requirements. At present only one client has an identified need for night care. Newington Court is not therefore providing the level of preventative support nor value for money found in other Extra Care schemes in East Sussex, which all have residents with much higher levels of vulnerability and formal care needs.

2.3. There has been a high level of vacancies at the scheme, over a number of years, despite efforts to publicise the service and encourage a greater level of use. Currently there are nine vacancies, and these are increasing as people either leave the scheme or pass away. It will be difficult to fill the vacancies due to the rural location of the scheme to which very few eligible clients wish to move. This is a view shared by the landlord, Optivo.

Proposal

2.4. It is the intention to consult with residents, staff and key stakeholders on the potential to develop Newington Court into a sheltered scheme or housing with care scheme. If this approach was to be agreed, work would be undertaken with Rother District Council, CAHS and Optivo to increase referrals to Newington Court as retirement accommodation.

Next Steps and Timescales

- 2.5. It is proposed that the six week consultation commences on 10 November 2020 with the results being presented to Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health in early 2021. An equality impact assessment will also be completed for consideration by the Lead Member.
- 2.6. The Adult Social Care Department will continue to work closely with Rother District Council, Optivo and CAHS to ensure a full consultation with all stakeholders.
- 2.7. The Department will write to all residents to let them know about the consultation and invite them to take part.
- 2.8. The Department's priority will be to ensure that residents and their families can have their say and ask questions at any point during the consultation period. The views of partners, providers, and health and social care staff will also be sought..

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 3.1. The Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health is recommended to agree that East Sussex County Council undertakes a six week consultation on the way care is delivered at Newington Court in Ticehurst.

KEITH HINKLEY

Director of Adult Social Care and Health

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

LOCAL MEMBER:

Cllr John Barnes